

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

Summary:

- Access to Immediate Shelter
 - Services close, or on site
 - Lower barriers to shelter (make it easier to get into shelters)
 - Storage Lockers
 - Lower barriers to parking areas but don't remove parking restrictions
 - More safe lots
- Large Scale Solutions
 - Turn empty buildings into shelters
 - More Health Care interventions for mental health and chemical dependency
 - Raise limits on how many people physicians can treat for having addiction
 - Add Low Income Housing (not just affordable housing)
 - Drug treatment services
 - Housing First approach
 - Centralized communication and navigation
- Role of Law Enforcement
 - Funding for case managers/community officers
 - More police
 - Community/Micro policing
 - LEAD
- Immediate Harm Reductions
 - Garbage Pick up
 - Find It Fix It
 - More Sanctioned Encampments
 - Public Restroom Access

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Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

Access to Immediate Shelter

- A lot of people living in cars no just campers. Car camping: would be great if there were more areas to go. Need public restrooms, so that people have a place to go. Parking lots → Fred Meyer
- Removing parking restrictions doesn't address trash, bathroom issues
- Why do people choose to park where they do? Has the city asked why? Have they done outreach? Are people there for specific reasons?
- Disagree with removing the current restrictions. Upset → What is shelter? Are camps by the locks considered immediate shelter? Don't want that. Want more laws enforced. I get tickets, etc. Move their cars
- The parking on our street is very tight and bike infrastructure. They are ticketing the cars that they know could pay, not the campers etc.
- In Ballard, we already have the Yankee Diner site, people are attracted to that
- Question: If the assumption is the city as our representative has a responsibility to help these people, is that true? Do we need to provide help?
 - Where do they go? If we don't care?
 - Are they helping themselves?
 - I don't agree with that
- Question: Tents in front of apartment buildings on 58th, can anyone just camp anywhere?
 - Parking strip is allowed (?)
 - Fine at that point, what does that do?
 - Trying to figure out how to get more tents off the street
 - (Facilitator: provide shelter, low barrier shelter etc. focus more on: what is something that works?)

Using Toolkit

Safe Zones

- What does a safety zone mean? Proposed: 10 safe zones with 20 vehicles
 - Just for a district or across the city?
 - Probably across the city
 - Facilitator: short term solution not long term shelter

Low Barrier Shelters

- Absolutely we should. If married or in relationship
 - Why can't you?
 - Shelters run by city? No by SHARE
 - How to make shelters low barrier? Remove excuses
 - Facilitator: possible solution is 24 hour shelter with place to store belongings
 - Facilitator: What to do immediately?
 - How many years before there is more shelter? 2 Years? 2018?

Underutilized spaces

- There have been buildings in Ballard → vacant buildings. For example, bldg. on 56th that has been empty for 1 year

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- Liability concern? To the building owner?
- Day Shelters→ People wander the streets, it is sad.
- Lockers, need a place to store belongings when you get kicked out
- Those who are on the street who will not be moved/ don't want to take help
- Facilitator: LIHI has tiny houses, safe space
 - Is there a mailing address for that?
 - So they don't have to switch schools

Services

- I want to assume that those on the street would like shelter, employment
- How are we reaching out?
- Facilitator; If moving a lot, hard to connect
- What is the size of the staff that we have to address people to services? Would it help people get them?
- Vans on the street- assuming people want the help. Provide the services, if they are available. Don't want the sweetest solutions to be cancelling each other out
- Does the person in the van actually want help?
- People don't have to accept services
 - Facilitator: huge range. No-size-fits-all solution
- Focused areas: have someone come in to "Safe car zones"
 - Absolutely against removing parking restrictions
 - Against also→ unintended consequences. Would safe zone be in lieu of other shelters? Too expensive. Needs to be low barrier. (alcohol is not allowed, cooking not allowed, etc)
- All of the solutions need to be done in conjunction with neighborhoods (other neighborhoods and other cities)
- Remove 2-5 am parking potentially
- People move here because such great protections and services→ need other cities to provide better/equal services

Shelters

- Emphasis on low-barrier shelters→ dogs, partners, would make a huge difference to get people off the streets.
- Does someone have to register at each shelter? Would be great to do once you know where the beds and services are. Make an appointment- we have some of this info on the back-end. Make it easier on the front-end. Many have mobile phones. Make it really simple- any changes to your situation
- Lockers→ help keep people and their medicine together. Sweeps can remove their medicine
 - More lockers!
 - Lockers on the campsite?
- Services→ I wonder what the scale of increase of "social workers" would 9 more in the city work? Is 4 LA's as good as 3 Las and other social workers?
- A lot needs to be done in terms of the infrastructure, before more social workers

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- Need opportunity to do laundry, showers, that's part of the infrastructure
- Facilitator: 3 urban rest stops in Seattle
 - Storage lockers are also needed
 - Need more funding to have extended hours

Facilitator Recap:

- Services Close, or on site
- Low barrier shelter
- Lockers
- Lower barrier parking areas but no removing parking restrictions
- Lower barrier paperwork → make it easier to get into shelters
- Empty building → Shelters

Access to Immediate Shelter

- Low Barrier shelters
- Lowering the barriers for parking in safe car lots
- Storage lockers
- Importance of funding for case managers
- Shelters from 12-24 hours
- Take advantage of open real estate while permitting is happen

Large Scale Solutions

- Capacity of local resources
 - New projects take a lot of time to build
- Building more SRO housing
- Reclaiming/acquiring larger buildings to provide more shelter
- MHA vs Producing more units
- King County health care plan
 - Addressing health care options- improving health care options will prevent folks from getting to the edge
- Stronger Partnership between city/county on facilitating health care interventions for folks suffering mental health issues, chemical dependency challenges
 - Coordinated entry
- Lobbying legislators to increase funding for mental health/chemical dependency funding
 - Tax corporations
- Increasing voluntary detox centers/ voluntary mental health services, not enough follow up case management
 - Medical detox centers
 - (Pharmaceutical industries help pay?)
- Safe injection sites need to be available in several communities
 - Raise limits on how many people physicians can treat for having addiction
- More examples of claiming/repurposing buildings for development

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- Employ folks that can help with development
 - More pressure from Mayor/ City Council
- 6 month supportive housing is inadequate, more support after this has run out?

Large Scale Solutions

- Low Income not just affordable
 - Add value to the scenario, up the percentage of low-income housing
 - Increase contributions of housing from developers

New Ideas

- Instead of North Precinct, hire more police. Need Police Badly. They are understaffed and need enforcement
- Homeless- Safe places for mom and children
- Warehouse industrial areas with access to services to help them get clean
 - Make them feel part of society- dignity, value
 - Mental health
 - Drugs
- More safe lots
- Community Mental Health specialists in every neighborhood
- Sweeps cost money, reduce sweeps
- How much money are we putting into these shelter programs that are not doing what they need to do
 - Examples:
 - Housing Hope in Everett, WA
 - We're all in in Arlington, WA

Group 2

- Far too many contracts with too many non-profits
 - Not enough tracking with data points
 - Give money to groups with successes
- Lot of support systems
 - Lots of good work, not just one place to go, centralized access
- Accountable data and communication
 - Residents- data centralized
 - Hold people accountable
- All need to be for Housing First, Low-Income
- Look at zoning laws, too much happening
- Not enough public spaces
- Policy- large scale
 - Intersecting, safe, public spaces
 - Balancing development with green spaces
- Community policing- Micro Policing
- Unifying place to collect, organize, resources

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- Most important: none of this will work without coordination
- Change affordable housing to Low income housing

Summary

- Build more low-income not just affordable income
- Mental health funds
- Drug treatment services
- Accountability of non-profits and city to enforce
- More Police vs. North Precinct
 - Community policing
- Housing First approach
- Centralized communication and navigation

Role of Law Enforcement

Thoughts on Solutions:

- What are existing laws on the books? Shouldn't we know that? What do we have for comparison?
- Feel like we don't have a strong police presence in Ballard
 - If you call- no response
- Lots of illegal activity, threatening people
- There are a couple things here:
 - LEAD
 - Community Policing
 - WA State #50 for Mental Health services
 - These two can get police involved
- Seems like community policing only comes to Ballard when pressure is put on them
 - Comes and goes
- As a business owner, next door to tents at locks
 - Needles
 - Excrement
 - Accosted/attacked by people there
 - Feel unsafe on property
 - Call police and they come when they can
 - Tourist from out of state want to walk through this area
 - This is representative of our city
 - →What's your proposal?
 - They're more respectful of where they are
 - Ex. The city put out garbage bins there, they don't use them
 - Accountability and respect
- What are micro community policing impacts?
 - There has been a lot of discussion and a specific plan but how do we access this plan and the support it is supposed to offer our neighborhood
- I don't see level of disorder you are describing

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- What are alternatives
- This is part of living in a city. We as a city have a homeless problem. Let's try to address these problems without demonizing people

Homelessness and crime

- MOB says we don't want to bring these two together
 - Also close to problem of house being broken into at 3am
 - Very involved in supporting homeless people
 - Also want crime addressed
 - I grew up in Mt Baker area: people breaking into homes then shouldn't demonize or criminalize homelessness
- Seattle plans to hire 100 police officers
 - Not if certain councilmembers have their way
- Homelessness and how it's linked/not linked to crime
 - Related to discussion of where it is suitable place for homelessness
 - Has to be allowable place
 - Separate people that are a threat from people who are not a threat end up a concentrated threat

Can we come up with recommendations?

- One reason we have encampments is because of sweeps
- People have to live somewhere
- Can't move people place to place without causing ongoing discomfort
- Need designated allowable places for people to be
- Tent city has been respectful and well maintained
- Why aren't LEAD and community policing being implemented? This seems like a no-brainer, why are we still discussing this
- Why aren't they in Ballard when we have so many resources for homeless people here
- We should be hiring in police for community policing
 - We need it

Next Table

- We're under pressure to get people housed
 - Look at moving parking restrictions
- I've been bothered by how big north precinct is, how about make NW and NE precincts?
 - It would improve response time
 - It would help police be present

Is the table consensus that we have crime problem in Ballard?

- All yes, one dissenting
 - "this is the reality of living in a city"
- We call 911, slow to respond

Holistic System

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- Point of contact
- Community policing
 - Community services
 - Well-trained
 - Social services
 - With mental health services
- LEAD

Role of Law Enforcement

- 340 vehicles by Fred Meyer, 3000 in Ballard
 - No communication with businesses and RV/Cars
- Policy of law enforcement
 - “Hands off?” By the city
 - Cops don’t do anything
 - Personal stories are shared
 - Theft, assault, threats, human waste
- Not enough officers (600 more)
- Broken window philosophy
- Officer Trainings
- New police station
- LEAD:
 - Doesn’t work, what is the success rate?
 - Statistically poor performance
 - Don’t see how it’s going to solve a larger problem
 - Counter: Great program, have to have lots of options, it’s successful and arrests don’t solve anything
- Force a choice: 24 hour facilities or referral to drug court versus jail
- Community Policing
 - 6 officers North, don’t respond to 911 calls
 - 2 officers walk beat in U district
 - Horse patrol/Bikes/Community officers
 - Locations: Library, U District
 - Police mobile precinct
 - 2X crime prevention officers
 - More mobile precincts
 - More bikes-night crew
- Parking Restrictions
 - Commercial
 - Residential
 - Enforce equally
 - 72 hour notice for enforcement
 - 6 inches or rubbing chalk off tire restraints the 72 hours

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

Immediate Harm Reduction

- Garbage Pick up
 - Prompt
 - With sign for public use
- Find It Fix It
 - Goal to get back within 24 hours
 - I.E. under Ballard Bridge needs more responsiveness
- Measurable Results from City
 - Metrics
- Whenever you have Garbage Dump → acknowledge informed encampment
- Skeptical- watching garbage
- In general- difficult to find garbage can
- More inclined to looking at authorized encampments with community input on where they are
 - Opportunity for citizens to do things

Immediate Harm Reduction

Solutions

- Micro Policing
- 200 cops should be in Ballard
- Sweep People- transition people into types of needs
 - IE drug use
- Create Housing
- Cargo Containers for shelter
- More garbage cans
- 8 out of 9 people are frustrated
- More sanctioned encampments
- Sandpoint land for RVs
- Key arena- shelter emergency

Immediate Harm Reduction

Intro/Background

- Concern that summary of last meeting did not reflect what was discussed
- Request that raw notes be made available to participants
 - Can file public records request but would prefer not to need to do so
- facilitator ("fac"): let's focus discussion on solutions; we're familiar with problems
- fac: definition/overview of harm reduction
 - gained public awareness during HIV epidemic (syringe exchange)
- Does harm reduction work?
 - Look at Indiana: Without harm reduction, HIV blew up.
 - fac: First above-ground syringe program 1988 in Tacoma
 - fac: Federal government lifted ban on syringe exchange, partly because of Indiana's situation.

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- fac: Condom use is another example.
- Will there be education along with safe injection sites?
 - fac: Yes.
 - fac: No safe way to do injection drugs. This is "safer," not "safe."
- Vancouver's downtown east side had highest HIV and Hep-C rates in North America. People zombie-like there. No place like it here in Seattle, says former resident.
 - fac: Recommendation here is multiple, small, sites, possibly coplocated with syringe exchange sites.
 - These are expensive--how will we fund?
 - fac: InSite (Vancouver, BC) is expensive. Colocation here would reduce cost.
- How long can someone stay at a SCF?
 - fac: Typically, no time limits.
 - fac: people check in with pseudonym, receive supplies, hand-washing facilities, nurse supervising, often lots of mirrors, peer educators
 - fac: part of the goal is to reduce disease transmission
 - people now go to publicly-funded health care when problems arise
- Concern that if we geographically-concentrate use, we may concentrate crime.
- Would like to see more funding for drug treatment program.
- fac: There are more than just InSite. Alternative models in Europe.
- Is there a way to get to the root of this problem?
 - Suggest reading up on the Swiss model: very pragmatic approach
- Lives across the street from a house, "could be called an airb&b." Called police, said she thought it was a drug house. Police said they know it's a drug house, nothing they can do.
- Terrified of potential ramifications of poorly-thought-out safe consumption site.
- Canada will soon be providing heroin for addicts. Surprisingly, this can work long-term.
 - fac: opiate addiction is different than e.g., alcohol or nicotine; chronic long-term users may have permanent damage

Misc

- Giving people right to camp
- All for permanent housing - long-term compassionate solutions
- Education (not listed in matrix) should be high priority
- Accountability is important
- Not allowing pets or partners at shelters is a problem
- Requiring quitting drug use in order to use shelter is a problem
- Apparent focus on making it easy for people to use heroin is baffling.
 - Likely encourages drug-users to move here. Possibly should have more accountability.
- We have many empty buildings here, these attract crime (e.g., squatters, litter, discarded syringes). Hard to get city or developers to take action to remedy.
 - City should make it easier to demolish buildings soon after owner has planned for such.
- Squatters are refugees in their own city. How to help them?
- Squatters next door to home were criminals, running bicycle chop shop. Not there because they need a place to sleep in order to get up for work in the morning.
- What is cost to city of dumping on the part of RV inhabitants?
 - 72-hour rule is not enforced, so these are dumping toilets.
- These proposed solutions are all temporary measures.
 - fac: Many so. Stop-gap measures not intended to address the problems long-term.
- Regarding priorities: Consider what will maximize someone's quality of life.

Safe and Healthy Communities Next Steps: Notes

- Parking is a problem. Greater density is leaving people with difficult access to homes, long-term campers taking up scarce space. Concern about ability for emergency vehicles to transit.
 - Enforcing parking regulations should be a priority.
- Developers attract problems by leaving electrical outlets available (RV's connected via extension cords across sidewalks.)
- Rides bike all over city. Sees tent encampments. Wonders if anyone talks to people to ask why they're allowing things to pile up.
 - fac: sometimes mental health problems, no place to put things

Public Restroom Access

- Garbage containers is related topic
- Friend's business next to Ballard locks believes it lost \$100K of business due to surrounding homeless situation
- Green space near locks could lose business of weddings, etc.
- #1 priority for two people
- This affects everyone.
- Who would maintain these?
 - fac: typically municipal government does (e.g., Seattle, Portland). In San Francisco, staffed by people in job training programs.
 - staffing is typical in Spain and Italy
- Should not be unsupervised.
- Lots of benefit for relatively low costs

Additional Garbage Containers and Pickup

- High priority
- Suggests simple rules, e.g., food service begins when cleanup completes
- Servicing dumpsters in a timely manner, including additional pickup if needed, should be high priority.
- When there to service, pick up the periphery as well.

Safe Consumption Sites

- #1 priority for two people

Not discussed ###`

- Sharps Containers
- LEAD-like program, focus on diversion and services to address certain crimes
- Community Policing
- Let people stay in place (with harm reduction measures)
- Prevent People from Living Outside
- Vehicle Living - Safe Zones
- Removing Parking Restrictions
- Low Barrier Shelters
- Build more affordable housing
- Increase mental health funding
- Increase funding for drug treatment services